

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

**CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF
JORGE LUIS GARCIA PEREZ
"ANTUNEZ" AND YRIS PEREZ
AGUILERA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Senator BOB MENENDEZ gave an important speech last Thursday, December 10, opposing concessions to the dictatorship of Cuba.

In his speech Senator MENENDEZ read out loud an open letter which had been sent by one of Cuba's true heroes—a giant of the resistance to the Cuban tyranny—Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez," here photographed with his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, a letter to the titular Cuban dictator, Raul Castro, on Tuesday, December 8.

"Mr. Raul Castro," Antunez wrote, "for months now my wife Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera and I have been kept in extrajudicial house arrest by your political police. Mr. Dictator, let me ask you some questions that may help clarify some doubts for those fellow countrymen of mine who may at some point have had hope your government would reduce the repression or even carry out democratic openings.

"What do you feel when you incite or allow people who call themselves men to beat and drag through the streets women like Damaris Moya Portieles, Maria Diaz Rondon, Ana Alfonso Arteaga, Sara Marta Fonseca, Yris Perez and now more recently the blogger Yoani Sanchez?

"How can you sleep after your subordinates cruelly beat, more than once, Idania Yanez Contreras while she was pregnant?

"How can you and your government talk about the battle of ideas, when ideas constantly face repression with beatings and arrests and years of imprisonment?

"Maybe your followers will not dare respond, but I who am in the long list of those who do not fear you, will answer:

"You act like that because you are a cruel man, insensitive to the pain and suffering of others; because, loyal to your anti-democratic and dictatorial vocation, you are convinced that dictatorships such as yours can only sustain themselves by fear and torture, and that even the most minimal of openings can end the only thing that interests you: staying in power.

"And finally, speaking of my case in particular, I will respond to you without the need to first ask of you the motives for such focused repression against my person."

Antunez, by the way, Madam Speaker, now 45 years old, was a political prisoner for 17 years until 2007.

He continued to write, "Your government and its lackey-repressive forces cannot forgive my two great and only crimes. First, that for almost two decades of torture and cruelties during my unjust and severe imprisonment, you were not able to break my dignity and my position as a political prisoner. Second, because despite all the violence and harassment—and above all the risk of returning to prison—I have decided to not abandon my country, where I will continue fighting for a change I believe to be as necessary as it is inevitable."

Signed, in the City of Placetas, by Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez", Tuesday, December 8.

On Friday, December 11, Antunez and his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, she is a heroine, were violently arrested. The doctrine of Fidel Castro's hero Adolf Hitler was again devoutly followed: "The very first essential for success is a perpetually constant and regular employment of violence."

"This is kidnapping," yelled Yris. "Long live human rights," shouted Antunez as they were being beaten and taken away by the Castros' political police on Friday.

I condemn the brutal arrest of these two heroes by the Castros' cowardly thugs. The days of the Castros' racist totalitarian tyranny in Cuba are coming to an end. Those who have collaborated with the violence and brutality of the racist regime will face justice and eternal shame. Antunez, Yris Perez Aguilera, her brother, Mario Perez Aguilera, Oscar Elias Biscet, Darsi Ferrer and many other heroic political prisoners of Cuba will be elected the leaders of free Cuba. That change is as necessary as it is inevitable. Because of heroes like Antunez and Yris Perez Aguilera, the day of freedom in Cuba is approaching.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEMORY
WALK**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the success of the Miami-Dade Memory Walk sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

This event called on volunteers of all ages to be champions in the fight against the terrible disease of Alzheimer's, which impacts more than 5 million Americans and their families. Over 2,200 people participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in my home county of Miami-Dade, and their efforts raised over \$130,000 for research into a cure.

I was encouraged by the wonderful outpouring of support and participation from our community in South Florida. I know from countless personal stories, as well as from my own family, just how devastating this disease of Alzheimer's is.

My mom, Amanda Ros, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's over a year ago. While I am blessed to have tremendous family support during this difficult time for her, I recognize how important it is to have organizations, such as the Alzheimer's Association, that can step in and provide families with guidance on how to care for their loved one.

Tony Friguls is another individual who knows this terrible disease all too well. He participated in the Memory Walk in support of his wife of 37 years, Maria, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 4 years ago at the age of 55. Since that day, her life, Tony's life and the lives of their children, grandchildren and, indeed, their entire family, has never been the same. It has changed forever.

For Tony and his wife, there was no more hope to reach retirement, to travel, to enjoy life. Instead, they were both forced to retire from their jobs in order to cope with the new daily challenges of Alzheimer's. Determined to help his wife, Tony made a decision to help raise community awareness for this disease. His team for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Baba's Bunch, included over 400 members. He is also involved in an essay-writing contest in public schools to raise student awareness about Alzheimer's.

Today, Tony's wife is 59 years old. She can hardly speak. She cannot even sign her own name, and she is not who she used to be.

He continues the fight against Alzheimer's in honor of his wife and all of those who suffer and cope with this terrible disease. Unfortunately, as we all know, Alzheimer's has no survivors. It destroys brain cells. It causes memory changes, erratic behaviors and loss of body functions. It slowly and painfully takes away a person's identity, a person's ability to connect with others, to think, to eat, to talk, to walk, to find your way home. There is no treatment, no cure, no way to stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

This disease is widespread and growing. Every 70 seconds, Madam Speaker, someone new develops Alzheimer's, and it is not only the person diagnosed that is impacted, but also their family members. One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's, an even higher number of those aged 85 and